Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2023

Mr. Jerry Norcia Chairman & Chief Executive Officer DTE Energy 660 Plaza Drive Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Mr. Norcia,

This letter is being sent in response to the continued, devastating power outages impacting constituents throughout Southeastern Michigan following the ice storms that swept our region on February 22, 2023, and March 3, 2023. For the past two weeks, our offices have received thousands of calls from our constituents who have been forced to face frigid temperatures without power. In total, nearly 900,000 households lost power due to the storm, and thousands remained without power nearly a week later. Just this weekend, 212,000 customers lost power after another winter storm, many for the second time in less than two weeks. Put simply, that is unacceptable.

Whether a lack of preparedness, inadequate resources, or a failure to act quickly, the response to this crisis by DTE has been deeply troubling. Many of our constituents have struggled with frozen pipes, lost food and income, or the financial burden of last-minute hotel reservations. These delays to restore power also present a serious threat to community members facing health issues that require electricity for treatment, such as oxygen support, endanger farmers' livestock, and hinder business' ability to recover after these storms. Though the credit provided to customers was a small step in the right direction, it is wholly insufficient to address the impact these outages have had on our neighbors.

To address the current crisis and better prepare for future weather events, we respectfully request answers to the following questions by March 17, 2023:

- 1. What concrete steps have DTE taken to address the immediate and longer-term impacts of these storms? Additionally, what steps were taken in advance of these storms to prepare for potential effects on the electrical grid and consumer access to electricity?
- 2. Will DTE be taking additional steps to build further resilience? What actions are being taken to ensure grid integrity and security during inclement weather, natural disasters, and other events to ensure this crisis is never repeated?
- 3. How many employees and contractors were activated to respond to this weather event before it arrived? What is your assessment of how much of a personnel shortfall existed that hampered your response?
- 4. Will DTE be providing additional relief for customers, many who are still without power, beyond the \$35 credit to consumers? How will any additional relief be provided to these consumers, and will consumers receive notification of relief they may be eligible for as a result of these continued outages?

- 5. What are the zip codes of the neighborhoods that experienced outages lasting longer than 96 hours?
- 6. Given the increased financial burden placed on our constituents, have you reconsidered your proposed rate increases?
- 7. Are there any actions Congress should consider to address these vulnerabilities and increase resiliency for future crises and weather events?

We look forward to your prompt response in the coming days.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dingell Member of Congress

Shri Thanedar Member of Congress Haley Stevens Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib

Member of Congress